

CLAIMS

1. A plant container comprising a receptacle having a top opening, a closed bottom, and a top flap of sufficient size to cover a plant placed in the receptacle, the receptacle and flap consisting essentially of a front panel and a back panel, at least one of the front and back panels being triangular, the front and back panels being connected to each other along two edges of the triangle.
2. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least six inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.
3. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least seven inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.
4. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least eight inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.
5. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least nine inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.
6. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least ten inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.

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7. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least eleven inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.

8. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an upper edge defining the top opening and wherein the flap extends at least twelve inches above a portion of the receptacle's upper edge.

9. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the height of the top flap is at least equal to 25% of the height of the receptacle.

10. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the height of the top flap is at least equal to 30% of the height of the receptacle.

11. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the height of the top flap is at least equal to 35% of the height of the receptacle.

12. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the height of the top flap is at least equal to 40% of the height of the receptacle.

13. A plant container as set forth in claim 1 wherein the panels are made of a suitable film such as polyolefins, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyesters, polyethylene-terephthalate, and/or nylons.

14. A plant container as set forth in claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a conic shape and the top flap has a triangular shape when the container is expanded to hold a plant.

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15. A plant container as set forth in claim 14 wherein the panels lay flat against each other when the container is in a collapsed state whereby they may be compactly stored until ready for use.

16. A series of the plant containers as set forth in claim 15, wherein the containers are aligned and stacked in a pack.

17. A plant container as set forth in claim 1 wherein the receptacle has a closed bottom end.

18. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the receptacle has an open bottom end.

19. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the panels each have a triangular shape.

20. A plant container as set forth in claim 19, wherein the panels have the same triangular shape.

21. A plant container as set forth in claim 20, wherein the panels each have a right triangular shape.

22. A plant container as set forth in claim 21, wherein the panels each have a right isosceles triangular shape.

23. A plant container as set forth in claim 22, wherein each panel includes a hypotenuse edge and two perpendicular edges and wherein the panels are sealed to each other along their hypotenuse edges and along one of their perpendicular edges.

24. A plant container as set forth in claim 23, wherein the corresponding edges of the panels form the outer perimeter of the container when it is in its collapsed state whereby the container has a collapsed triangular shape.

25. A plant container as set forth in claim 23, wherein the respective edges of the panels joined together are joined together by essentially permanent seams.

26. A plant container as set forth in claim 25, wherein when the container is in its expanded state:

the seam joining the hypotenuse edges extends centrally through a rear portion of the receptacle and through the top flap;

the seam joining the perpendicular edges extends centrally through a front portion of the receptacle; and

the unjoined perpendicular edges partially define the receptacle's open top and outer edges of the top flap.

27. A plant container as set forth in claim 26, wherein the panels are made of a suitable film such as polyolefins, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyesters, polyethylene-terephthalate, and/or nylons.

*Sub a* 28. A plant container as set forth in claim 1, wherein the panels lay flat against each other when the container is in a collapsed state whereby they may be compactly stored until ready for use.

29. A series of the plant containers as set forth in claim 28, wherein the containers are aligned and stacked in a pack.

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30. A method of making a batch of the plant containers set forth in claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

overlaying a first web and a second web of a suitable film material; forming essentially permanent sealing seams between the first and second webs corresponding to the desired shape of the panels; and dividing the so-seamed webs into the containers.

31. A method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the seam-forming and the dividing steps are performed substantially simultaneously by hot wires and/or hot dies.

32. A method as set forth in claim 30, further comprising the step of similarly aligning and stacking the containers in a collapsed state to form a pack for use at a consumer site.

33. A method as set forth in claim 30, wherein the desired shape of the panels is a right triangular shape whereby after the forming and dividing steps each panel includes a joined hypotenuse edge, a joined perpendicular edge and an unjoined perpendicular edge.

34. A method as set forth in claim 33, wherein the forming step comprises:

forming transverse seams across the webs which are separated by a distance equal to the length of the unjoined edge; and

forming diagonal seams between adjacent transverse seams thereby forming two containers between each pair of transverse seams.

35. A method as set forth in claim 34, wherein the panels have the same right isosceles triangle shape wherein the distance between transverse webs is substantially the same as the width of the webs.

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36. A method of providing a container for a plant, said method comprising the steps of:

providing the plant container of claim 1;  
inserting the plant into the container's top opening; and  
folding the top flap over the top opening.

37. A method as set forth in claim 36, further comprising the steps of:  
storing the container in a collapsed state; and  
expanding the container prior to the inserting step to form the receptacle for a plant or bouquet.

38. A method as set forth in claim 37, further comprising the step of securing the top flap in its folded position.

39. A method as set forth in claim 38, wherein the securing step comprises taping the top flap to a front portion of the receptacle.

40. A method of providing a container for a plant, said method comprising the steps of:

storing the plant container of claim 1 in a collapsed state;  
expanding the container; and  
inserting the plant into the container's top opening.

41. A method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said inserting and expanding steps are performed by a consumer at a point-of-purchase of the plant.

42. A method as set forth in claim 41, wherein said storing step is accomplished by a dispenser located near a plant selection site and wherein the dispenser facilitates performance of the inserting and expanding steps.

43. A method as set forth in claim 42, wherein a pack of the containers are hung on the dispenser for easy access by a consumer.

44. A method as set forth in claim 43, wherein the dispenser comprises one or more hooks and the pack of containers includes a removable strip for hanging from the hooks.

45. A method as set forth in claim 44, wherein said inserting and expanding steps include the steps of:

pulling the front-facing panel forward to expand the container;  
inserting the plant into the open top of the container; and  
pulling the container forward to detach the strip.

46. A method as set forth in claim 45, further comprising the steps of:  
folding the top flap over the top opening; and  
securing the top flap in its folded position.

47. A plant wrapping system, comprising a dispenser and series of containers as set forth in claim 1 temporarily stored on the stand.

48. A plant wrapping system as set forth in claim 47, wherein the dispenser comprises at least one hook and each of the containers includes a removable strip for hanging from the hook.

49. In combination, the plant container of claim 1 and a bouquet inserted therein.

50. The combination of claim 49, wherein the top flap is folded over the top opening to cover the receptacle.

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51. The combination of claim 50, wherein the top flap is secured in its folded position.

52. In combination, the plant container of claim 1, and a potted plant inserted therein.

53. The combination of claim 52, wherein the receptacle has a conical bottom end portion and this bottom end portion is folded or crushed towards the bottom surface of the potted plant.

54. A plant container comprising a receptacle having a top opening for insertion of a plant therein and a top flap selectively folded over the top opening to cover the receptacle;

wherein the container is formed from two panels sealed together along substantially only two adjacent edges;

wherein each of the panels forms half of the receptacle and half of the top flap.

55. A plant container as set forth in claim 54, wherein the panels each has a triangular shape.

56. A plant container as set forth in claim 55, wherein the panels have the same triangular shape.

57. A plant container as set forth in claim 56, wherein the panels each have a right triangular shape.

58. A plant container as set forth in claim 57, wherein the panels each has a right isosceles triangular shape.

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59. A plant container as set forth in claim 58, wherein each panel includes a hypotenuse edge and two perpendicular edges and wherein the panels are sealed to each other along their hypotenuse edges and along one of their perpendicular edges.

60. A plant container as set forth in claim 59, wherein the corresponding edges of the panels form the outer perimeter of the container when it is in its collapsed state whereby the container has a collapsed triangular shape.

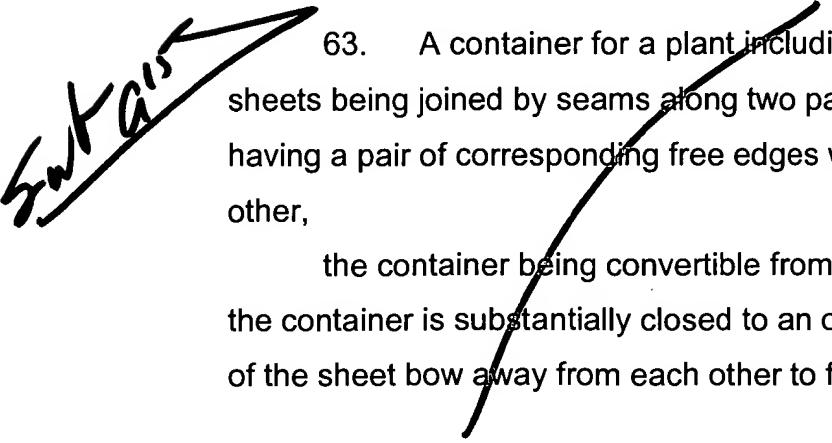
61. A plant container as set forth in claim 59, wherein the respective edges of the panels joined together are joined together by essentially permanent seams.

62. A plant container as set forth in claim 61, wherein when the container is in its expanded state:

the seam joining the edges of the hypotenuse edges extends centrally through a rear portion of the receptacle and through the top flap;

the seam joining the edges of the perpendicular edges extends centrally through a front portion of the receptacle; and

the unjoined perpendicular edges partially define the receptacle's open top and outer edges of the top flap.

*Part A's*   
63. A container for a plant including two sheets of flexible material, the sheets being joined by seams along two pairs of corresponding edges and having a pair of corresponding free edges which are not connected to each other,

the container being convertible from an initial flattened condition in which the container is substantially closed to an open condition in which the free edges of the sheet bow away from each other to form an opening, the sheets, when in

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the open condition, being foldable along a line joining the two free edges and crossing one of the seams to form a flap that substantially covers the opening.

64. The container of claim 63 wherein the edges of one pair of corresponding joined edges are longer than the edges of the other pair of corresponding joined edges.

65. The container of claim 63 wherein the sheets are substantially triangular.

66. The container of claim 63 wherein at least one of the sheets is substantially triangular.

67. The container of claim 63 wherein the two pairs of co-joined corresponding edges meet to form a closed bottom of the container.

68. The container of claim 63 further including a header separably connected to one of the pair of free edges along a line of perforations.

69. The container of claim 63 wherein at least a portion of the flap extends from the fold line to a part of the opening opposite the fold line and is secured there.

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